



PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW  
Director

**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

June 9, 2009

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Board of Supervisors**

GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST TO APPROVE AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT  
WITH DAILY JOURNAL CORPORATION FOR NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION SERVICES  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Approve Amendment Number One to extend term of the current contract with the Daily Journal Corporation for Newspaper Publication Services for up to six (6) months, effective July 1, 2009 and continuing through December 31, 2009, at a total cost of \$30,000.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve Amendment One (Attachment A) to Contract, Number 75425, with Daily Journal Corporation for Newspaper Publication Services (Contract) to extend the term of the Contract for up to (6) months, on an automatic, month-to-month basis effective July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, unless terminated earlier as provided. The cost of Amendment Number One for the full six-month period is \$30,000, and will be financed using 36 percent (\$10,800) Federal funds, 33 percent (\$9,900) State funds, and 31 percent (\$9,300) net County cost (NCC). Sufficient funding is included in the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 Proposed Budget.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or her designee, to execute Amendment Number One, substantially similar to Attachment A, for a July 1, 2009 effective date, provided that: 1) written approval is obtained from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to extend the term of the Contract for up to six (6) months; and 2) the Director of DCFS notifies your Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO) in writing within ten (10) working days of execution of Amendment Number One.

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

The Contract expires on June 30, 2009. The recommended actions will enable the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to extend the Contract for up to six (6) months while the Department completes a solicitation process for a new contract for Newspaper Publication services.

Before a juvenile court can terminate parental rights and order adoption as a permanent plan for children whose parents' identity and whereabouts are unknown, the law requires that these parents receive legal notice through various means including newspaper publication. These legal notices are required pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 294, and are meant to attempt to notify parents of court proceedings to terminate their parental rights. Once parental rights are terminated, children are free to become adopted into safe and permanent homes. The Contractor provides DCFS regional offices a secure means to submit/transmit legal notices to the Contractor for publishing. The confidentiality of case information is maintained at all times.

The failure to publish legal notices regarding termination of parental rights court proceedings may: 1) result in substantial hardship to children, parents, guardians, and others; and 2) cause the court to cancel the court proceedings. The court may also order monetary sanctions against DCFS for failure to provide proper legal notice.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal No. 2 – Children, Family and Adult Well Being. The recommended actions will continue the Department's efforts to improve children's well-being through adoption by providing legal notice of court proceedings prior to terminating parental rights.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The total cost of the six (6) month extension is \$30,000, financed with 36 percent (\$10,800) Federal funds, 33 percent (\$9,900) State funds, and 31 percent (\$9,300) NCC. Sufficient funding is included in the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 Proposed Budget.

## **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On November 8, 2005, your Board approved the Contract for the provision of Newspaper Publication Services for one year from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. Subsequently, the two (2) one-year options, and a six-month option of the Contract was implemented to extend the term of the Contract through June 30, 2009.

The current solicitation process, including pending protests, is expected to continue beyond the date to request your Board's approval of a new contract to begin July 1, 2009. The



solicitation may possibly continue beyond the expiration date (June 30, 2009) of the current Contract. CDSS approval to extend the term of the Contract is pending and is expected to be approved on or about June 20, 2009. Amendment Number One will implement the six (6) month extension on an automatic, month-to-month basis from the County to the contractor from July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, to allow DCFS to continue Newspaper Publication Services while it completes the solicitation process to select a new contractor to provide the Services.

The Contractor is in compliance with all Board and CEO requirements.

This Board letter and Amendment One were reviewed by the CEO and County Counsel. Amendment Number One was approved by County Counsel as to form.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

No solicitation process was required for Amendment Number One, which was developed based on procurement by negotiation, in accordance with CDSS and County contracting regulations.

In August 2008, a solicitation was conducted to secure a new contract for Newspaper Publication Services for a January 1, 2009 start date. However, the solicitation was cancelled due to the receipt of non-responsive bids, and the current Contract was extended (by written notice) for an additional six (6) months, in accordance with CDSS regulations.

In January 2009, a new solicitation was released for a July 1, 2009 start date. However, additional time is required in order to complete the solicitation process. The solicitation will continue beyond the date to request Board approval for a new contract commencing July 1, 2009, and it may possibly continue beyond the current Contract expiration date. DCFS requested CDSS' approval to extend the Contract for up to six (6) months, and a response is due on or about June 20, 2009.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

The requested actions will allow DCFS to comply with Section 294 of the Welfare Institutions Code to publish legal notices regarding court proceedings for the termination of parental rights in preparation for adoptions court proceedings.

**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval, it is requested that the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors send a copy of the adopted Board letter and attachments to:

1. Department of Children and Family Services  
Contracts Administration  
Attention: Walter Chan, Manager  
425 Shatto Place, Room 400  
Los Angeles, California 90020
2. Office of the County Counsel  
Social Services Division  
Attention: Diane Cachenaute, Paralegal  
648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street Suite 602  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW  
DIRECTOR

PSP:SK:CM  
WC:RR:MR

Attachment (1)

c: Chief Executive Officer  
Acting County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors